REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-73 are currently pending in the application and stand rejected. Independent claims 1, 23, 45, 55, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72 and 73 have been amended to clarify that the devices are electrostatic air transporter–conditioner devices. Amendments were also made to certain dependent claims in order to maintain proper antecedent support by removing the term "housing.".

In the Office action claims 1-3, 8, 10, 14, 17-27, 29, 31, 35, 39-48, 51-59, 61-62, 65, 71-73 stand rejected as obvious over *Satyapal et al.* (U.S. 5,879,435). In essence, the Office action has rejected the claims which require two clean air outlets and two separate electrode assemblies on an electrostatic air transporter-conditioner device the device over *Satyapal* which discloses adding a UV germicidal lamp to its household air cleaners which are primarily for use in residential central heating and cooling systems. (Column 2, lines 3-37) The *Satyapal* devices are said to contain a number of alternately charged collector plates 42 disposed in a spaced relationship in a parallel array axially aligned with the central axis through the air flow passageway. (Col. 3, lines 23-45) The plates are said to be four by seventeen inches in dimension and are spaced at ¼ inch intervals. Col. 3, lines 43-45). The applicants respectfully submit that in view of the many differences, some of which are set forth below, between *Satyapal* and the present invention, that *Satyapal* does not make the present invention obvious. Therefore, Applicants request that the basis for this rejection be reconsidered and the rejection be withdrawn.

The *Satyapal* device is not even an electrostatic air transporter–conditioner device, as is the present invention. Rather, the *Satyapal* device is placed in a central air system and relies on the central fan for air movement. The design considerations for an electrostatic air transporter-conditioner device are distinct from those in fan assisted devices and the differences are not trivial. It is unlikely that in the absence of a fan, the *Satyapal* device would even move air considering that its collector plates are 4 inches wide and spaced only at ¼ inch distances.

Perhaps because the *Satyapal* device is primarily for use in residential central air systems there is only a single air inlet and a single air outlet and only a single set of electrodes. See Fig. 2. In the present invention there are multiple inlets and multiple outlets and multiple electrode sets. In contrast to the assertion in the Office action, *Satyapal* provides no teaching or incentive for such a modification. In fact, any additional openings in the *Satyapal* device would interfere

in the operation of the device. Additional openings would create diversions to the air flow. For example, inserting an additional electrode assembly near an additional outlet in the *Satyapal* device, as in the present invention, would cause air to flow through the assembly from the collector electrode to the emitter because the fan of the central air system would pull air into the system through the outlet. This would serve no purpose. Moreover, in contrast to the allegation in the Office action there is no need expressed in *Satyapal* for an improvement in air cleaning efficiency. Rather, the primary teaching of *Satyapal* is that a germicidal lamp is useful for irradiating collector plates in order to prevent microbial growth.

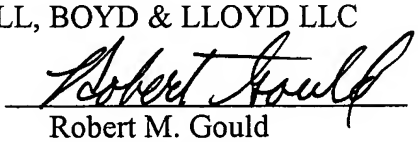
Claims 6, 11-13, 28, 32-34, 66-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Satyapal* in view of *Moon* (US Pat. 5,215,558). Of these claims only claims 67, 69, and 70 are independent. The Office action took the position that *Satyapal* does not teach the use of focus or trailing electrodes in its ion generator but that *Moon* teaches ionizing, collector, auxiliary and accelerating electrodes and the combination would have been obvious. Applicant respectfully submits the combination is not obvious because there is no motivation or reason to combine the electrode configurations of *Moon* which are effective only in electrostatic air transporter-conditioners but would have no appreciable effect in an air cleaner in a central air system. The power of the fan in a central air system would completely swamp any effect of the focus or trailing electrodes if the *Moon* electrode system were incorporated into the *Satyapal* electronic air cleaner. As the air rushes past the focus and trailing electrodes its momentum would overpower the smaller ionic effects introduced by these electrodes. Thus, nothing would be gained by the combination. Applicant respectfully submits that because the combination of Moon with Satyapal is unworkable or at the very best would serve no purpose that there is no motivation for the combination and that claims 6, 11-13, 28, 32-34, 66-70 are not obvious.

The applicant respectfully submits that at least for the reasons set forth above, Claims 1, 23, 45, 55, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71 72 and 73 are allowable, as are their dependent claims.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting prosecution of this application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 02-1818 (order no. 112440-354) for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Gould
Reg. No. 43,642
Cust. No. 29190
Phone: (312) 807-4244

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